

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 2, 31 and 35 and cancels claims 32-32 and 36-38. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 2, 31 and 35.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as their invention. Various amendments were made throughout claim 2 to bring it into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claim 2 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout claim 2 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 2, 31, 32, 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Merrill (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,821). As indicated above, claims 32 and 36 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 32 and 36 is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claims 32 and 36 is respectfully requested. This rejection with respect to claims 2, 31 and 35 is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 2, 31 and 35 are not taught or suggested by Merrill whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 32 and 36 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that

the features recited in claims 32 and 36 are taught or suggested by Merrill whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. The cancellation of claims 32 and 36 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

The features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 2, 31 and 35 are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Merrill whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

The present invention as now recited in the claims is directed to a method and apparatus for editing a moving image displayed on a display unit. According to the present invention, a computer graphics (CG) object is designated in the moving image while moving or pausing the moving image as it is displayed on the display unit and a command list which shows a plurality of commands relating to the designated CG object is displayed on the display unit at the time of designating the CG object. The commands being listed on the command list are arranged in order of time when the commands were produced for editing the designated CG object and a subsequent portion of the moving. Thereafter, according to the present invention each command relating to CG object shown in the command list is designated and executed, thereby causing an editing operation to be conducted on the moving image.

The above described features of the present invention are disclosed in the specification and drawings. For example, the features of the present invention as recited in claims 31 and 35 are described in the specification in the passage beginning on page 27, line 7 through page 28, line 27 and illustrated in Fig. 1 as element 502 and Fig. 9 as steps 601-607 and are

further described in the specification, for example, on page 28, lines 6-12 and illustrated in Fig. 1 as element 502.

More specifically, in correspondence to the amendments to the claims, the present invention provides additional features that when a user designates a computer graphic (CG) object while moving or pausing the moving image displayed on said display unit, the display unit displays a command list which shows commands relating to the designated CG object at the time of designating the CG object, wherein the commands are listed on the command list to be arranged in order of time when the commands were produced for editing the designated CG object and a subsequent portion of the moving image. Then the user designates one command in the list, thereby causing an editing operation on the moving image to be conducted.

The above described additional features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the amended claims are described in the specification, for example, on page 25, lines 17-22. Therein, it is described that when the user designates a CG character displayed on a monitor window 210-1' by the mouse, the command select menu 500 is displayed. Further, referring to page 27, line 18 to page 28, line 12 and Fig. 9, the user clicks the pause button 1003 (Fig. 16) and designates a CG object to be re-edited on the monitor window 210. All the commands stored in the event storage unit 106 are acquired and a command select menu (command list) 502 containing the names of all the acquired command arranged in chronological order is produced and displayed in superimposition on the monitor window 210. The command list 500 shows the all commands which were used to edit the moving picture last time that is the used commands from the designated CG

to the succeeding images in the edited moving image. The user designates one of the desired commands in the command list and the designated command is executed on the designated CG object to re-edit the CG image.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in claims 2, 31 and 35 are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record particularly Merrill whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

Merrill teaches a method and system for synchronizing scripted animations such that synchronization services is provided so as to synchronize actions of two or more interactive user interface characters that are displayed simultaneously.

In the Office Action the Examiner alleges that:

“Merrill teaches the displayed command is shown in a list displayed on the display unit, the list showing command related to the object arranged in order of occurrence from the time of designating the CG object and after that time (commands are presented in the order in which they were created for the program)”.

However, this allegation by the Examiner is completely unsupported by any teaching in Merrill. In fact the Examiner did not identify any specific location in Merrill where such teaching can be found. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the teachings in the Merrill and have not found any passage therein even remotely related to these alleged features.

Thus, Merrill fails to teach or suggest designating a CG object while moving or pausing the moving image displayed on the display unit as recited in the claims.

Further, Merrill fails to teach or suggest displaying on the display unit a command list which shows a plurality of commands relating to the designated CG object at the time of designating the CG object, wherein the commands being listed on the command list are arranged in order of time when the commands were produced for editing the designated CG object and a subsequent portion of the moving image and designating and executing each command relating to the CG object shown in the command list, thereby causing an editing operation on the moving image to be conducted as recited in the claims.

Therefore, Merrill fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 2, 31 and 35 as being anticipated by Merrill is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 2, 31, 32, 35 and 36.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 2, 31 and 35 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 2, 31 and 35 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.39242X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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